

# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UPON THE HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE COUNTY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the East Sussex County Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Sixteenth Annual Report, and the forty-ninth of the series, on the Health of the Administrative County of East Sussex. The Report deals with the calendar year 1943, a year that was remarkable not only for great advances in medicine and surgery through the discovery and development of new means of attack on disease, of which penicillin is the most recent example, but also for a quickening of interest in social welfare resulting from the Beveridge Report on Social Security, in which was incorporated a plan for the provision of a national medical service through which full and complete treatment for sickness would be available to all. The Government's proposals in this respect were published early in 1944 as a White Paper entitled "A National Health Service," the purport of which was "to bring the country's full resources to bear upon reducing illhealth and promoting good health in all its citizens."

The year 1943 also saw the foundations laid for a greatly improved nursing service through the publication of the first and second parts of the Rushcliffe Report dealing with the salaries and conditions of service of Nurses. These reports were generally approved by members of the nursing profession and by employing authorities and at the time of writing have been generally adopted.

The normal work of the Health Department has been continued throughout the year not only without any curtailment, but with considerable extension in many directions, as will be seen by the detailed statements which follow. War-time measures have added greatly to the burden of work. Supervision of the Casualty Services of the County has taken up much of the time of the medical and sanitary staff in collaboration with officers of the Ministries of Health and Home Security and many duties have also been undertaken under the Government Evacuation Scheme for the care of mothers and children.

Plans should now be considered in connection with the Health Services administered by the County Council, so that as soon as possible better provision should be made for the following needs :—

- (a) Institutional accommodation for advanced cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (b) Hostel accommodation for chronic sufferers from Tuberculosis.
- (c) Clinic premises for Maternity and Child Welfare and School Medical and Dental work.
- (d) Maternity Hospital accommodation.
- (e) Cottage Home accommodation for aged and infirm persons where service, meals and nursing help are made available.
- (f) Convalescent Home accommodation.
- (g) Home for unmarried mothers under Welfare Authority auspices.
- (h) Institutional Accommodation for mental defectives of all ages.

The County Council have under consideration the needs of the County in respect to Housing, Water Supply and Sewage Disposal and arrangements are being made to assist the District Councils with the necessary preliminary surveys and to co-operate with them in meeting the requirements in connection with each of these important matters.

A review of the public health work of the County Council is set out hereunder together with a brief note on the vital statistics and on the incidence of infectious diseases.

### Staff Changes.

The chief changes in the technical staff during the year were as follows :—Dr. Petrie, Medical Officer of Health of East Grinstead Urban District and of Uckfield Rural District and Assistant School Medical Officer in these districts, undertook service with H.M. Forces on 6th November, 1943. This necessitated a re-arrangement of the work of Dr. Stott, who, with the assistance of Colonel Graham, of Crowborough, and Dr. Somerville, of East Grinstead, became acting Medical Officer of Health in the districts previously served by Dr. Petrie. Miss A. G. Mitchell, County Nursing Superintendent, resigned her appointment to become Superintendent of the Queen's Nurses' Home, Hastings. She was succeeded by Miss D. E. Blackmore. Miss

Mitchell, during the seven years in which she held office in the County, ably directed and supervised the combined work of the District Nursing Associations, maintaining throughout a high standard of efficiency in the midwifery and nursing service. She also did good war-time work as County Organiser of the Civil Nursing Reserve. Mr. Leggat, Senior Assistant Health Inspector, left to take up an appointment as County Sanitary Inspector in Warwickshire, and Mr. G. J. Peters was appointed as Assistant County Health Inspector as from 5th July, 1943. The retirement of Miss Edgar, through ill-health, after seventeen years of devoted service as Matron of the County Sanatorium, was felt to be a very serious loss by both the staff and the patients. Miss Deacon was appointed to succeed her.

I have to record, with much regret, the death of Dr. Bruce Low, Medical Superintendent of Southlands Hospital. This great loss was suffered by the hospital shortly after the close of the year. The rapid development of what was the Steyning Infirmary when Dr. Bruce Low took up office into the first-rate modern hospital now known as Southlands Hospital, Shoreham-by-Sea, was largely due to his pioneering spirit, untiring energy and great organising and administrative ability. In the development of the hospital, Dr. Bruce Low was fortunate in having in Miss Biggin, the Matron, who still directs the nursing staff and nursing service, one who had the same vision and understanding as he had of what had to be accomplished for the institution to attain the full status of a Hospital and Nursing School. Dr. Bruce Low's successor, Mr. E. K. McLean, F.R.C.S., has the best wishes of his colleagues for success in his important office.

#### **Vital Statistics.** (See Tables I, II, III and V.)

The vital statistics are given in their usual form at the end of the Report.

The **Estimated Population** which decreased from 296,300 in 1941 to 282,000 in 1942, still further decreased in 1943 to **273,700**, a reduction of 8,300 in the year.

The **Birth Rate** for the County was **16.34** per 1,000 of the estimated population, an increase of .86 over 1942, as compared with a rate of 16.5 for England and Wales. The live births increased from 4,367 in 1942 to **4,473** in 1943. The number of illegitimate live births in East Sussex was 524.

The general uncorrected **Death Rate** was **15.39** per 1,000 in 1943, as compared with 14.95 in 1942.

The **Infant Mortality Rate** for the Administrative County was **33.75** per 1,000 live births in 1943 as compared with 31.37 in 1942. The rate for the Welfare Authority area was **33.73**. The illegitimate death rate was **72.36** per 1,000 illegitimate live births for the Welfare Authority area and **68.70** in respect of the Administrative County.

The **Maternal Mortality Rate** for the Administrative County was **1.96** per 1,000 live and still births and **2.02** for the Welfare Authority area. The corresponding figures for 1942 were 2.89 and 3.13 respectively. There were nine maternal deaths in the administrative county.

The deaths from all forms of **Tuberculosis** show a decrease of 14 in 1943 over the previous year, there being 8 fewer deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and 6 less from other tuberculous diseases. The number of deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis (95) in 1943, was the lowest recorded during the last 11 years.

Deaths from **Bronchitis, Pneumonia and other Respiratory Diseases** (362) were 15 less than in 1942.

There was an increase of 50 deaths from **Cancer** compared with the previous year. Deaths from **Heart Disease** decreased by 121.

#### **Infectious Diseases.** (See Tables IV and V.)

Comparing the returns for 1943 with those for the previous year, it will be seen that Measles was prevalent in epidemic form, there being in all **4,091** cases reported compared with 1,298 in 1942. The disease was generally mild, only three deaths being recorded, giving a case mortality of **.07** per cent. There were 42 fewer cases of Whooping Cough; two deaths occurred from 328 cases, a case mortality of **.6** per cent. There were over 200 more cases of Scarlet Fever without any death, but Diphtheria with 34 cases claimed two deaths, a case mortality of **5.8** per cent. This demonstrates the serious nature of diphtheria as compared with other children's ailments and justifies the efforts made by the Local Authorities to immunise all children against it. The low incidence of Enteric Fever, there being only two cases in the year, is worthy of note as that disease has been taken as one index of the sanitary condition of a locality; another and perhaps more sensitive one being the record of infant sickness and mortality. There were five more cases of Puerperal Pyrexia than in 1942, but, fortunately, no death from that disease.

We have been on the outlook for Malaria owing to war conditions and two cases of that disease were reported in 1943.

Apart from a small increase in the number of cases of Pneumonia reported (216 cases) no other infection calls for any comment.

#### **DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.**

In all County districts the proportion of children immunised against Diphtheria continues to rise in emulation of the standard set by the Urban Districts of Cuckfield and Burgess Hill and the Rural District of Cuckfield two years ago, when 90 per cent. of children under 15 years had been immunised. The figures set out below show the position at the end of 1943.



The figures available for the County districts are not yet strictly comparable, for two main reasons. The first is that in all parts of the County there have been considerable changes and movements of population, and it has been found extremely difficult for records of the number of children under five years of age to keep pace with these movements. (There is an associated difficulty in obtaining accurate information from the mothers of new arrivals regarding treatment carried out elsewhere, as record cards may be lost or not supplied.) The Executive Food Officers have been extremely helpful in facilitating the extraction from their working files of lists of children under five years, and it has been found that numbers from this source, which must obviously be accurate, are consistently much higher than those compiled in other ways.

The other difficulty is one of calculation. The Ministry of Health's form of return, submitted every six months by the Medical Officer of Health of each Borough, Urban District and Rural District, divides children into those under five years of age and those of five years and over, but under 15. It is the desired aim to have 100 per cent. of children over five immunised; but it is not usual to immunise children under one year of age, consequently the maximum percentage attainable in the under-five group is somewhere around 80 per cent. Some of the returns made have been compiled on this basis; in other cases the children under one year of age have been excluded in order that 100 per cent. immunisation of the remainder may be the aim.

				Under 5 years of age.	5-15 years.
				%	%
Bexhill	B.	..	..	56	85
Lewes	B.	..	..	84	66
Rye	B.	..	..	16	38
Burgess Hill	U.D.	..	..	98	96
Cuckfield	U.D.	..	..	99	96
East Grinstead	U.D.	..	..	83	82
Newhaven	U.D.	..	..	71	70
Portslade	U.D.	..	..	93	71
Seaford	U.D.	..	..	83	63
Battle	R.D.	..	..	49	81
Chailey	R.D.	..	..	98	67
Cuckfield	R.D.	..	..	97	95
Hailsham	R.D.	..	..	58	84
Uckfield	R.D.	..	..	85	89

#### TYPHUS AND THE SCABIES ORDER.

The arrangements made by the District Councils for the isolation and treatment of Typhus and for the cleansing of verminous persons were set out in my report for 1942. It was there stated that cases of Typhus, if diagnosed before admission to hospital, would be sent to the High Grove Isolation Hospital, East Grinstead, or to the Brighton or Hastings Sanatoria. In this connection, the County Council agreed in 1943 to make a contribution to the East Grinstead and Uckfield Joint Hospital Committee towards the cost of the erection of a cleansing station at the High Grove Hospital.

#### Maternity and Child Welfare.

There was no diminution in the various activities on behalf of mothers and infants throughout the year 1943.

The Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939, was brought into operation by Order of the Ministry of Health on 1st June, 1943. The Act regulates the making of arrangements by Adoption Societies and other persons in connection with the adoption of children, provides for the supervision of adopted children by Welfare Authorities in certain cases, restricts the making and receipt of payments in connection with the adoption of children and restricts the issue of advertisements with a view to arrangements for adoption. The duties of visiting and inspecting under the Act are placed on the Infant Protection Visitors already appointed for the purpose of Section 209 of the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with the supervision of foster children. In this County the five Assistant County Nursing Superintendents act in this capacity. There are no Adoption Societies in the County of East Sussex. All applications for adoption from East Sussex made through Societies outside the County are referred to these Visitors for the interview of adopters and prospective homes are reported on by them.

The care of illegitimate children was the subject of Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health dated 1st October, 1943, in which the Welfare Authority was asked to formulate a scheme to co-operate with and reinforce the work of existing voluntary moral welfare associations in dealing with problems arising under war conditions in regard to these children. The district nurse-midwives were requested by letter to put unmarried mothers into touch with the Social Welfare Workers and every effort is made by the Welfare Authorities to secure satisfactory conditions for illegitimate infants.

In April, 1943, the Chichester Diocesan Moral Welfare Association opened Melbourne House, Crowborough, as a home for the reception of unmarried mothers for a month previous to, and two months after, confinement. This home replaces the Bell Hostel, Eastbourne, which was closed on account of war conditions.

It is the only Hostel available for East Sussex unmarried mothers in the Administrative County. The County Council find accommodation for unmarried mothers in various other hostels situated outside the County. It has been represented that there is a need for a Hostel under Welfare Authority administration for those unmarried mothers who are not prepared to accept the help offered by moral welfare societies.

There is evidence of an increase in the occurrence of neglect of young children as one of the unsatisfactory results of the war. These cases cause much anxiety and require tactful handling by health visitors and the Officers of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children to secure better conditions for the children. Officers of the Society have been of great help to the Welfare Authority and generally secure improvement without having recourse to prosecution of the parents.

In January, 1943, the Committee considered the question of the supply of Home Helps to undertake domestic work for women at the time of their confinement. The Ministry of Health had indicated in Circular 2729 dated 23rd November, 1942, that such employment would be regarded as work of national importance by the Minister of Labour and National Service. On this information the Local Offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service were approached with a view to names being supplied of suitable women willing to undertake this work. District nurse-midwives were also asked to compile a list of women willing to act as Home Helps in their localities and the help of the Women's Voluntary Services was also enlisted in this matter. It was not found to be possible to obtain any women for this service except on a whole-time basis, and the County Council were dependent throughout the year for this service on such help as could be obtained locally, towards the cost of which parents were expected to pay according to their means. After the close of the year a scheme for the employment of whole-time home helps was accepted by the Committee and submitted for approval to the County Council.

The War-time Day Nurseries established at Burgess Hill, Crowborough, East Grinstead and Hurstpierpoint continued to receive young children of mothers engaged on work of national importance.

Heath House, Buxted, was established in November, 1943, under the Government Evacuation Scheme as a short stay Nursery for children of expectant mothers between 1 and 5 years of age from evacuation areas, including East Sussex.

Including Heath House, Buxted, there are now three residential nurseries administered by the County Council, the other two being "Fairfield," Cross-in-Hand, and Horsted Place, near Uckfield. In addition to these, there were 8 residential nurseries evacuated to East Sussex, 5 being London County Council Nurseries and 3 Nurseries established by Voluntary Bodies. Each residential nursery is visited regularly by a medical practitioner, who gives medical attention when required. General administrative supervision is given by the District Medical Officers of Health and by the medical staff of the County Health Department. Great assistance has been rendered by Dr. Foulds, of the E.M.S. Laboratory at Horsham, in investigating outbreaks of infection that have occurred from time to time.

The children have benefited greatly in both forms of Nursery from the physical care they have received and especially from correct dieting and rest periods and character training on which much stress is laid by those in charge of the Nurseries.

The County Welfare Officer (Miss Mellor), who was appointed in October, 1942, to co-ordinate the work of the billeting authorities for the welfare of evacuee mothers and children, was transferred from the department of the Clerk of the County Council to work under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health early in 1943. Her reports indicating where ameliorative action was required were referred to the billeting authorities and many mothers have been helped to secure suitable accommodation. Copies of Miss Mellor's reports are transmitted to the Regional Offices of the Ministry of Health.

During 1943, 62 Infant Welfare Centres held regular sessions. Of these, 56 were established by Voluntary Bodies and 6 by the County Council.

The number of Nursing Associations in the County is now 60, employing 94 Nurses.

The Rushcliffe Scales of Salaries for Nurses and Midwives became operative as from April, 1943, and were accepted by the County Nursing Federation with the approval of the Welfare Authority. It is expected that the nursing profession will be much more attractive through the raising of its status as a result of the improved remuneration and conditions of service. The County Council have increased their grants to assist District Nursing Associations and the County Nursing Federation to meet the increased cost of the service.

The number of certified midwives who notified their intention to practise, either temporarily or permanently, in the area for which the County Council are responsible, was 166. At the end of the year there were 137 certified midwives on the register.

Following the arrangements made for coastal evacuation, expectant mothers were provided with maternity hospital accommodation in safer areas. Maternity hospital treatment was provided under the County Scheme for 1091 women, 62 of whom were admitted to the Emergency Maternity Home at Old Surrey Hall, Felbridge, as evacuees from coastal areas.

Fourteen cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year in the Maternity and Child Welfare area; 9 of these were treated in hospital; no impairment of vision was reported in any case.



28 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified. Of these 19 received treatment in hospital and 9 in their own homes. No death occurred.

Nine Marasmic (wasting) infants were admitted to the Chailey Heritage Hospital under the County scheme.

On the 31st December, 1943, there were 314 children and 186 foster parents on the Child Life Protection Register. 1718 visits were made during the year by the Infant Protection Visitors and District Nurses.

### **Tuberculosis**

There were **285** notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1943, 195 of which were in respect of patients between 15 and 45 years of age. The total notifications of cases of other tuberculous diseases, mainly of glands, bones and joints, was **93**, of whom 48 were under 15 years of age.

The number of notified cases on the register of the District Sanitary Authorities on 31st December, 1943, was 1,597 (1,063 pulmonary and 534 non-pulmonary).

At the end of the year 98 patients were under treatment in Darvell Hall Sanatorium, Robertsbridge, 73 of these being from the Administrative County area and the remainder from the areas of adjoining Authorities (17 from Hastings, 2 from Eastbourne and 6 from Brighton).

The salaries of the Nursing Staff of the Sanatorium were revised in accordance with the recommendations of the Rushcliffe Report with effect from 1st April, 1943.

The Ministry of Health sanctioned the completion of the ground floor of the already commenced Nurses' Home. This will provide accommodation for 10 Nurses and will allow for all the Staff to be resident at the Sanatorium. The Ministry's authority for this was made more easily obtainable through their own Circular 2858 having stressed the need for providing adequate living accommodation for Nurses in Sanatoria. This circular also recommended that nurses should be given facilities for recreation with, if necessary, free travel arrangements to the nearest town. Suitable arrangements were made for the County Sanatorium Nurses.

Dr. Dingley reported that the X-ray department had done good work, having taken 960 films, of which 380 were of out-patients. These were further divided into ordinary civil cases and those sent by medical boards, i.e. dispensary 259; medical boards 121. Miss Ridgeway, Handicraft Instructor, proved herself a skilled and far-sighted buyer. Her enthusiasm continued to make a splendid contribution to the restoration of the patients' physical and mental health.

On 31st December, 1943, 60 tuberculous patients (34 children and 26 adults) were under treatment at Institutions other than Darvell Hall.

Financial assistance was provided during the year for patients considered likely to be restored to working capacity on their accepting sanatorium treatment, or otherwise carrying out the directions of the Tuberculosis Officer, in accordance with the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Health in Circular 2741. A Dispensary Clerk was appointed as from 1st September, 1943, to assist at the Dispensaries and to help patients when submitting their claims for assistance and to investigate their financial circumstances. The number of patients who received financial allowances from 1st September to the end of the year was 54, a much smaller number than was anticipated. As from 1st September, 1943, patients suffering from tuberculosis (whether pulmonary or non-pulmonary) and persons liable to maintain them were no longer required to contribute towards the cost of their treatment.

Reciprocal arrangements with the Brighton Corporation were made during the year whereby six beds would be reserved at Brighton Sanatorium for chronic cases in the County area and a similar number of beds would be reserved at Darvell Hall Sanatorium for early cases from the Brighton area. This arrangement was found to be of great assistance in dealing with patients residing in the western half of the County who were unable to undertake the journey to the Sanatorium at Robertsbridge.

### **Orthopædic Treatment.**

The six Clinics each operated three times per week as in the previous year, the number of children receiving treatment being 881. Forty-eight children were treated in the Heritage Crafts Hospital, Chailey, and in other Hospitals during 1943.

Mr. Harris, in charge of the Council's Orthopædic Clinics, reports that much greater use is being made of these clinics than was formerly the case, and children with deformities are being referred earlier and therefore with better prospects of benefit from the remedial treatment.

Miss Casebourne and Miss Inglis are responsible for carrying out the treatment, both in the Clinics and in the homes of the children. They are both enthusiastic workers, who easily gain the interest of the children in the remedial exercises. They work in close co-operation with the Organisers of Physical Education and with the Head Teachers of the Secondary and Public Elementary Schools.

### Venereal Diseases.

The Clinics at Brighton, Hastings and Tunbridge Wells were continued during the year, the total number of new patients attending being 964, an increase of 264 on the numbers for 1942. The total number of attendances of patients from the East Sussex area was 7,860 for 1943 as compared with 5,769 in the previous year. The Eastbourne County Borough Council's clinic was also available for East Sussex patients, but only a small number of such patients attended there.

It was found to be necessary to increase the venereal diseases clinic hours at Brighton from 12 to 18 per week in view of the increase in the attendances of patients.

Defence Regulation 33B came into operation in January, 1943. Under this Regulation, Venereal Diseases Officers report the names of persons suspected to be the source of infection of patients treated by them. In the first instruction Medical Officers of Health were to cause enquiries to be made only when two such notifications referred to the same individual. The number of such duplicate notifications received was so small throughout the country generally that the Ministry of Health issued Circular 2896 of 28th December, 1943, recommending that investigations be made on receipt of the first notification under this Regulation. During the year, 41 notifications were received, of which only 3 were notified on a second occasion.

The District Medical Officers of Health agreed to co-operate with the County Health Department by arranging to display in their districts a series of posters on venereal diseases provided by the Ministry of Health. These posters drew public attention to the importance of obtaining early treatment for venereal diseases and gave up-to-date information of the local facilities.

### Welfare of the Blind.

There is again an increase in the number of registered blind and defective sighted persons in the care of the East Sussex Association for the Blind, the total at the end of the year being 589 as against 575 in 1942. In addition, 200 persons with defective sight were kept under regular observation with a view to preventing complete blindness or delaying its onset. Seventy-six new cases were registered in 1943, of whom 57 were Sussex residents; the others had been registered elsewhere before coming to reside in this area. Of the total of 589, only 101 were less than 50 years of age and over 300 of the remainder were over 70 years of age. The Blind Home Teaching Service was severely handicapped during the year as it was not possible to fill the vacancy in the service for the district comprising Cuckfield and Chailey Rural Districts, Cuckfield and East Grinstead Urban Districts and part of Uckfield Rural District. In spite of this, 5,605 visits for instruction of blind persons in the County area were made. Owing to the great difficulty in obtaining materials, some sections of the teaching service had to be curtailed.

Increased rates of Domiciliary Assistance were authorised by the County Council consequent upon their decision to adopt the scale of the Assistance Board when assessing the needs of Blind Persons and their Sighted Dependents. This assistance is administered through the East Sussex Association for the Blind, the County Council contributing towards their office and administration expenses and meeting the whole cost of the Home Teaching Service.

### Mental Deficiency.

At the end of the year, there were 733 mentally defective persons on the County Register as compared with 720 in 1942. 184 were being maintained in Certified Institutions, 1 in an Approved Home, 32 were on licence from Institutions, 136 under Guardianship and 9 on leave of absence from Guardianship. Three were detained in places of safety. 346, not under Order, were under supervision, and 18 were in Public Assistance Institutions. Assistance towards the maintenance of 4 cases dealt with under Section 3 was also given.

During the year the names of 42 persons were removed from the register for the following reasons :

Transferred to the Local Education Authority .. ..	2
Discharged by the Board of Control .. ..	5
Removed from the area .. ..	4
Admitted to the County Mental Hospital .. ..	11
Improved .. ..	1
Married .. ..	6
Died .. ..	12
Cannot be traced .. ..	1

### County Council Hospital and Domiciliary Medical Services.

Hospital and Institutional accommodation for the sick continued as stated in my Report for 1942. The admissions to Southlands Hospital showed an increase of 471 over the total for 1942 and the surgical operations increased by 236. The total admissions to the hospital for 1943 were 4,321 and the total operations 1,325, a large percentage of the male surgical cases being service patients. The last two years have shown a considerable increase in admissions compared with pre-war totals. Maternity patients confined in the hospital were 619 during 1943 as compared with 604 for 1942 and 286 for 1941. Special attention was given to measures for rehabilitation. Miss Savin, the whole-time Masseuse in charge of the physio-therapeutic department,



which is being developed under the direction of the Medical Superintendent, inspired patients with her own enthusiasm for the means used for restoration of function, especially after fracture, but also in general convalescence. In the latter part of the year the hospital dining hall was used as a gymnasium for remedial exercises and remedial games. The total bed accommodation in the Hospital and Institutions remained approximately the same as in 1942.

The usual domiciliary medical services administered by the Public Assistance Committee were continued.

### **Cancer Act, 1939.**

On receipt of the Ministry of Health Circular 2845 dated 6th September, 1943, information was obtained for the County Council as to the arrangements made by other County Councils to provide facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of persons suffering from Cancer. This information was submitted to the Public Health and Housing Committee with a recommendation that interim arrangements should be made under the Cancer Act, 1939. The matter was referred to the Sub-Committee on the Treatment of Cancer for consideration and report, and the County Council, at their meeting on the 9th May, 1944, decided to formulate a Scheme of Interim Arrangements which at the time of writing this Report is before the Ministry of Health for approval. It is proposed in the Scheme to supplement the existing arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer obtainable through Voluntary Hospitals and Public Assistance Hospitals and Institutions, by an Agreement with the Westminster Hospital, London, for attendance of persons requiring specialised treatment both as in-patients and out-patients. The Scheme also provides for payment of travelling expenses of patients and escorts, cost of dressings, etc., pathological examination of specimens and for the provision of accommodation for inoperable cases.

### **Public Vaccination.**

An increase in fees was granted to 14 Public Vaccinators during the year. This increase was extended to all Public Vaccinators in April, 1944.

The most recent returns rendered to the Registrar-General show that of the 3,204 births registered in the calendar year 1942, 1,409 children were successfully vaccinated by 31st January, 1944; 20 were in-susceptible of vaccination; 59 children died unvaccinated; medical certificates of postponement of vaccination were issued in 18 cases; 202 children removed to other districts; 125 removed and could not be traced; declarations of conscientious objection were made for 1,151 children, or 35 per cent. of the registered births; and 220 remained unaccounted for on the 31st January, 1944.

### **Health Education.**

There is much sub-normal health in the community that could be improved with consequent gain in efficiency and personal happiness. The County Council have entrusted mainly to the Sussex Rural Community Council the education of the people in the Administrative County in the rules of healthy living. Their efforts to this end during the year included the distribution of the excellent magazine entitled "Better Health" to Doctors' Surgeries, Women's Institutes and to Health Visitors, Teachers and Youth Leaders. In ten districts where there are Empire Notice Boards a regular posting of attractive "Healthy Living Posters" was arranged. Lecturers were provided to responsible bodies holding meetings of instruction as to Venereal Disease. The varied and up-to-date literature supplied through the Central Council for Health Education was distributed broadly in respect of a wide range of health subjects. A fourteen days' tour by cinema van of some 30 East Sussex Elementary Schools was conducted showing at each School three health films specially prepared for children's instruction.

### **General County Public Health Administration.**

The year under review, in so far as County Administration is concerned, has again been one in which the continued war-time circumstances created difficulties and restricted activities, but nevertheless, all immediate requirements received attention. It is not possible to refer in detail to the requirements of these services which cover the Food and Drugs Act in relation to investigations concerning tubercle infection and other abnormalities affecting milk, the operation of the Preservatives in Food Regulations and the control of school milk supplies. The examination of dairy farm premises by the technical staff of the department, following applications for licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders and advisory work in respect of improvements and compliance with the essential requirements, have also been of special importance.

Water supplies, particularly in connection with dairy premises, have been dealt with, also matters relating to drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal, together with kindred matters, and complaints as to rivers pollution, including the examination of straw pulp plant effluents.

Housing activities and the survey work undertaken before the war have inevitably been relaxed. These matters will require earnest attention in post-war programmes.

### **Civil Nursing Reserve.**

On the 1st January, 1943, there were 156 trained nurses, 67 assistant nurses, and 734 nursing auxiliary members of the Civil Nursing Reserve registered in East Sussex. As the Minister of Health is anxious that

the register should be a "live one," the availability of members was constantly reviewed during the year, with the result that a large number of resignations and withdrawals took place. On the 31st December, 1943, there were 689 names in the County register :—

	Trained Nurses.	Assistant Nurses.	Nursing Auxiliaries.	Total
Mobile .. .. .	31	9	125	165
Immobile (Full) .. .. .	24	7	66	97
Immobile (Part) .. .. .	41	25	361	427
Totals .. .. .	96	41	552	689

Since my last Report the Selection Committee has met on 12 occasions and has interviewed 69 candidates in all :—

	Accepted.	Rejected.
Trained Nurses .. .. .	1	—
Assistant Nurses .. .. .	—	—
Nursing Auxiliaries .. .. .	40 (including 8 already trained)	17
Student Nurses .. .. .	5	6
Totals .. .. .	46	23

Twenty-three mobile and 2 immobile nursing auxiliary candidates have completed their training.

The recommendations made in the First Report of Lord Rushcliffe's Committee on Nurses' Salaries resulted in a substantial increase, as from the 1st April, 1943, in the rates of pay of all Civil Nursing Reserve members other than those employed in the Civil Defence (General) Services, who will continue to be covered by the Civil Defence rates and conditions.

Ministry of Health Circular 2803, dated the 16th April, 1943, announced that all new nursing auxiliary recruits were to be medically examined before being accepted for training instead of, as previously, being examined at the hospital when they reported for training. These examinations have chiefly been carried out at Southlands Hospital, Elfinward Auxiliary Hospital, and Hurstwood Park Emergency Hospital, and I am indebted to the Medical Officers of these Hospitals for their co-operation.

In August the restrictions regarding the enrolment of immobile members were modified, and authority was given for volunteers who had been classed as immobile by the Ministry of Labour and National Service to be enrolled as immobile Civil Nursing Reserve members provided immediate employment was available for them.

During the year the Council have lost the valued services of Miss A. G. Mitchell, Honorary County Organiser and Chairman of the Selection Committee, Mrs. Thorpe, Assistant Honorary Organiser for the Battle Rural District, and Miss Healey, a member of the Selection Committee. Miss D. E. Blackmore, County Nursing Superintendent, has taken over Miss Mitchell's two appointments, but it has not been thought necessary to fill the other two vacancies owing to the decrease in the number of candidates applying for enrolment and in the number of registered personnel. Mrs. O. J. Offord has continued her excellent work as Honorary Organiser in the Hove and Portslade district, and I should like to express my thanks to her and to the members of the Selection Committee for their services.

### Air Raid Precautions.

#### *Civil Defence First Aid Post Service.*

At the end of the year 1943 there were established in this County 14 First Aid Posts, 12 Mobile Posts and 13 Light Mobile Posts.

The whole-time personnel at these First Aid Posts consisted of 10 Trained Nurses and 54 Auxiliaries (9 men and 45 women). Most of the Posts, however, were manned by part-time workers, of whom there were 55 Trained Nurses and 553 Auxiliaries (72 men and 481 women). These figures include personnel available for duty at (a) Gas Cleansing Sections of First Aid Posts, (b) Separate cleansing centres affiliated to First Aid Posts, and (c) Mobile Gas Cleansing Units.

The number of First Aid Points at present established in the rural areas of the County is 181, manned by 1,603 part-time volunteers. Of these First Aid Points 47 have been upgraded and have been provided with additional medical equipment, including a supply of morphia.



*Mobile Gas Cleansing Units.*

No change was made in the number of these Units in the County, of which there are nine.

*Civil Defence Ambulance Service.*

At the end of the year 1943 there were 77 whole-time and 41 part-time Civil Defence Ambulances in the County with 20 whole-time and 62 part-time cars for sitting casualties. Of the whole-time ambulances 64 have been adapted to take either stretcher or sitting cases or both if necessary. In addition the stretcher fittings of all whole-time ambulances have been adapted to take Army and other type stretchers. Arrangements were made by the Ministry of Health for a free issue of racks for this purpose.

There were 24 men and 26 women employed whole-time in the Ambulance Service and 200 men and 315 women volunteers employed part-time.

*Emergency Medical Service.*

In the course of the year there were four large and two smaller Class I Hospitals available for medical and surgical treatment of casualties and seven Class 2 Hospitals. These Hospitals were able to meet the needs of casualties and of service sick and some received for treatment cases of illness under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

**Acknowledgments.**

It is in no perfunctory sense that I thank the Chairmen and Members of the Committees concerned with the administration of the Health Services for the stimulus of their constant interest in the work of the Department and for their encouragement and support in the measures taken to safeguard and to improve the health of the community.

I am glad, too, of this opportunity of expressing my recognition of the devotion to duty and loyal co-operation of all my colleagues on the staff. Medical, Dental and Nursing Officers and Clerks have all worked as a team, giving of their best to the Council's service.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

R. ASHLEIGH GLEGG, M.D., D.P.H.,

County Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNTY HALL, LEWES.

September, 1944.

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1943.  
TABLE I.

Group	Population estimated by Registrar General 1943.	Live Births.		Deaths.		Infant Deaths (under 1 year).		Deaths from Heart Disease.		Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Deaths from other Tuberculous Diseases.		Deaths from Respiratory Diseases, not including Influenza.		Deaths from Cancer.	
		No.	* Rate.	No.	* Rate.	No.	† Rate.	No.	* Rate.	No.	* Rate.	No.	* Rate.	No.	* Rate.	No.	* Rate.
3 Large Towns	76680	1045	13.63	1420	18.51	39	37.32	426	5.55	32	.41	8	.10	115	1.49	247	3.22
7 other Urban Districts	55920	1016	18.16	812	14.52	35	34.44	223	3.98	18	.32	7	.12	74	1.32	133	2.37
5 Rural Districts	141100	2412	17.09	1982	14.04	77	31.92	573	4.06	45	.31	17	.12	173	1.22	348	2.46
Whole County	273700	4473	16.34	4214	15.39	151	33.75	1222	4.46	95	.34	32	.11	362	1.32	728	2.65

† Rates calculated per 1,000 of the registered live births.      \* Rates calculated per 1,000 of the estimated population.

TABLE II.

DISTRICT.	Area in statute acres (land and inland water).	Live Births. Rate per 1,000 population	Number of illegitimate live births	Stillbirths.			Deaths under 1 year of age. Rate per 1,000 live births registered.	Death rate per 1,000 population
				Rate per 1,000 population.	Rate per 1,000 total births.	Number of illegitimate stillbirths.		
<i>Three Large Towns.</i>								
Bexhill .. .. .	7993	17.02	33	.65	36.88	1	42.55	18.69
Hove .. .. .	3953	12.16	68	.43	34.32	3	33.92	19.37
Lewes .. .. .	1988	15.92	26	.16	10.36	1	41.88	14.67
TOTALS .. .. .	13934	13.62	127	.43	30.61	5	37.32	18.51
<i>Seven other Urban Districts.</i>								
Burgess Hill .. ..	2024	20.17	25	.27	13.24	—	33.55	13.13
Cuckfield .. .. .	3912	16.96	26	.61	35.01	2	24.19	12.85
East Grinstead .. ..	6600	18.09	20	.97	51.02	—	21.50	16.53
Newhaven .. .. .	1772	22.27	15	.80	35.08	—	63.63	16.40
Portslade-by-Sea .. ..	1953	17.12	18	.47	26.73	—	27.47	12.79
Rye .. .. .	1027	15.70	2	.62	38.46	—	60.00	14.76
Seaford .. .. .	4274	18.63	5	.40	21.50	—	54.94	19.04
TOTALS .. .. .	21562	18.16	111	.60	32.38	2	34.44	14.52
<i>Five Rural Districts</i>								
Battle .. .. .	117053	16.07	44	.26	16.39	—	42.85	16.04
Chailey .. .. .	66038	18.18	36	.41	22.36	—	32.67	13.72
Cuckfield .. .. .	74335	17.49	47	.45	25.26	—	23.75	11.82
Hailsham .. .. .	94629	17.45	59	.37	20.83	1	28.36	13.76
Uckfield .. .. .	112096	16.74	100	.48	28.02	1	33.38	14.58
TOTALS .. .. .	464151	17.09	286	.40	23.08	2	31.92	14.04
Whole County .. .. .	499647	16.34	524	.45	26.97	9	33.75	15.39

TABLE III.

Number of deaths at different periods of life in the Administrative County during the year 1943.

Sex.	Urban Districts.							Rural Districts.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1-5.	5-15.	15-45.	45-65.	65 and over.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1-5.	5-15.	15-45.	45-65.	65 and over.
Males .. .. .	935	44	6	14	56	209	606	894	49	8	12	57	184	584
Females .. .. .	1297	30	4	18	75	258	912	1088	28	9	9	75	225	742
TOTALS .. .. .	2232	74	10	32	131	467	1518	1982	77	17	21	132	409	1326



(Not including cases of Tuberculosis, details of which are given on Page 5).

\*These figures are taken from the Annual Return made to the County Medical Officer by the Registrar General. In the case of other diseases the figures are extracted from the Weekly Returns made by the District Medical Officers of Health.

### CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1943 IN THE URBAN DISTRICTS.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year	{ Total	..	..	74
	{ Illegitimate		..	18

